

Minutes of Panda Bowmen Committee Meeting, 9th February 2026, 8.00pm on Zoom

Present: Anthony, Rosemary, Keith, Paul, Phil, Duncan, Mark

There were no apologies

Minutes of meeting 12th January 2026

These were proposed by Phil, seconded by Paul and accepted as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

Pandamonium

Anthony reminded us that the date for this is 16th May, and said the rugby club are happy for us to use pitch 3 if we need to. There may be a play-off rugby match taking place that day, but that will not be known until much nearer the time.

Anthony raised the question – do we keep it as a longbow shoot, or do we open it up to other bowstyles?

Paul asked what the ethos behind the shoot is: to show our face? For financial gain?

Anthony said, a bit of both.

Duncan and Keith both felt that we must open it up. In recent years there have been fewer and fewer longbow archers attending. Duncan pointed out that a longbow shoot is a closed circle with ever decreasing numbers. Keith agreed.

Keith suggested that if we open it up, we need to find a different name for the event. The name “Pandamonium” is now well known, and people associate it with a relaxed, slightly fun (anything goes) Longbow shoot. If we open it up, it will probably become a bit more serious; we need a new name (such as Pandaclusive; Panda Playday...).

Anthony asked, do we want to shoot a formal round or make it a fun shoot (like our anniversary was)? Keith favoured a shoot like the anniversary one, with food and everything.

Paul also wondered about basically a repeat of last year’s celebration; but he also wondered if a change of name would lose the historic element of the shoot, and if we would lose some longbow archers who are only BLBS members. Keith and Anthony said we did lose some last year, but it was only a small number (4?). Most archers who attended last year’s Pandamonium event also came to the 70th anniversary shoot and enjoyed it.

Anthony asked if we will have random scoring again. Keith felt we should; if we have a straightforward tournament, we will have to think about prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd for different bowstyles, and it would be much easier to deal with a few prizes for non-standard scoring. The general feeling was that we should do the same as we did for the 70th anniversary event – non-standard scoring, make it fun, and provide food.

Anthony asked what we will be shooting. We agreed to shoot a Western round (60 yards and 50 yards) but with non-standard scoring. This would be 4 dozen arrows before food and 4 dozen after food. We could start at 10.30am, and food would then be at about 12.30pm.

Rosemary will check with Tony at the rugby club if he would be able to provide food for us; also the cost of it, and whether we could use the Barry Harrison bar again.

The entry fee will be the cost of the food plus £5.

We will make teas and coffees available (ask for donations to cover cost), and also hold a raffle.

Paul asked about having some bespoke little prizes to give away, we agreed that was a good idea. Paul said he would send us a link to see the sort of medals that he had obtained last year.

Anthony said he will produce an entry form and send it to YAA. Further suggestions for the name of the shoot included Randamonium and Pandisaster...

Keith asked if we have enough good bosses for use by the compound archers. Anthony thought we can manage. Rosemary remembered that we have only 12 target stands and asked if we need to limit the number of entrants? Yes, we need to limit it to 48, this being 4 archers per target, shooting in 2 details. Entries would be on a first come, first served basis.

Indoor venue Update

Paul, Duncan and Phil had been to look round the potential venue in Harehills (Junior Sports Hub, 60 Ashton Road, Leeds 8).

Parking was challenging.

While they were there Paul re-measured the room; it is trapezium shaped. One wall is 35m, the other is 27m; it would just be possible to shoot 25m.

Storage was a bit vague: outside there are 2 x 20ft storage containers where they may be able to give us some space. Indoors there is potentially space, but renovations are going to be done in May so it is difficult to know exactly. The renovations are to provide separate toilet facilities for men and women, as opposed to the single facility available at present (it is nearly all men and boys who attend).

There is an onsite canteen which we would be able to use.

The big thing was that there is no heating. Paul and the others visited on a quite cool day, they were feeling cold in the venue (admittedly they were standing around rather than being physically active) and it was clear that people would need to shoot in their coats. Potential time slots on offer were Tuesday and Thursday evenings 4-7pm, and Saturdays 11am-2pm. Time keeping is quite strict and we would need to leave the area tidy and thoroughly clean. This could be challenging with straw bosses on an astroturf pitch. Keith suggested putting dustsheets down. It would need a lot of sheets if the bosses were to be rolled in and out. They would have to be carried instead.

Keith felt we would need to review the venue after the renovations. He commented that our members probably will not want to have to wear coats to shoot indoors.

Anthony asked if we will need full height target stands; Paul said we will, as the floor is flat. It is a makeshift indoor football pitch.

Duncan commented there are plus points and minus points: the plus points are that it is covered, it's flat, and there is enough space. But on the minus side, the timings are an issue (only the Saturday lunchtime would work for us), there is no heating, and (possibly the biggest issue) the parking is challenging.

The cost would depend on the number of people and how often they shot. At £7.50 per person, it would take 18 archers to cover the cost of a session. If it was fortnightly, as we had at St Edmunds, that would make it £15 per person each month.

Anthony felt that £7.50 didn't seem too bad, given that we paid £5 a head at St Edmunds and that was a good few years ago. But 18 people could mean 15 cars, and the parking could be a real issue. Duncan commented that parking also depends on what is going on at the mosque – the season, and whether there are weddings, funerals etc.

Anthony asked if there were special clothing requirements; Paul said No, there were youngsters using the premises dressed in T-shirts and shorts, and no mention had been made of any dress code.

The timing of the Saturday does not work for Duncan or for Nick Beech, so sadly they would miss out on the shooting.

If we book this venue, do we need to ask members to commit to payment whether attending or not? Yes, because it is a lot to subsidise if people don't pay up. The transporting of equipment to and from the venue would be another cost; previously Tim Mahony provided us with free transport, but as he is no longer a member we would need to hire a vehicle.

Phil said he didn't want to pour cold water on the idea, but he thought it would be a bit difficult at this venue. (Cold was the operative word!)

Anthony commented that feeling cold depends on your level of activity, how involved you are in what is happening.

It was agreed that the next step should be to consult Panda members, to sound out opinion and find out how many people are really interested. Keith and Duncan both felt this would demonstrate that we are serious about looking for a venue and trying to resolve the issue. Paul said he would put something together and send it out to members. Then we can discuss it at our next meeting.

Paul also commented that he had messaged Daisy a few days earlier; at our AGM she had mentioned that her sister does horse riding and there could be some space at the stables (but she has not ridden just lately). Keith commented that when his daughter did horse riding, the indoor stable was open at one side, was cold, and smelled of horse!

Any Other Business

There was none.

Date of next meeting

Agreed as Monday 23rd March 2026 at 8.00pm on Zoom.